

PAUL West is poised to make his Wycombe Wanderers first team debut — and become the first player to graduate from the Reserve side.

West scored his third goal of the season in the Reserves match against Cooper Sports on Tuesday evening — a match the reserves won 3-2. The other goals came from a Steve Toli penalty and Graham Stanmore, a 17-

year-old prospect from the Princes Risborough area.

West could well be included in the squad, if not team, to play at Sutton in the Premier Division tomorrow. He has been signed on Isthmian League forms as has one of his goalscoring partners Andy Hunt.

But for Hunt things look bleak for the next couple of weeks. He twisted his ankle in the Suburban League match last Saturday

against Egham and will be out for a couple of weeks.

West likes to come in from a midfield/wing position to score his goals and for this reason manager Mike Keen could see the departure of Mick Holifield on holiday for a couple of weeks as a good excuse to try West.

However, he faces opposition for the place from Steve Long who is available again after a

short holiday. As Mr Keen looks for the winning formula that brought such a fine run at the end of last season Tony Price could suffer. With little pre-season training behind him, his lack of fitness appears to show towards the end of matches.

Paul Miles, who lost his place in the squad for the League Cup match at Hayes, looks set for some games in the reserves in an attempt to regain his goalscoring touch.

SUTTON UNITED'S veteran midfielder Larry Pritchard undergoes a fitness test today (Thursday) to decide if he can play in the Premier Division Isthmian League clash against Wycombe at Gander Green Lane on Saturday (3). This is Sutton's first home fixture this season.

Pritchard took a bad knock on the ankle in Saturday's 3-1 win over Leytonstone at Leytonstone. Another casualty was skipper Johnny Rains. Both were forced to stay out of the Bank Holiday Hitachi Cup 2-1 win against Harrow at Harrow, but Rains has now been declared fit.

Roger Wytett, who came in for Pritchard on Saturday, played a useful game in midfield and was retained in that position against Harrow.

Sutton's line-up on Saturday will be (from): Collyer, Rogers, T. Rains, J. Rains, Green, Stephens, Wytett, Walden, Joyce, Cornwell, Dennis, Parsons.

Ian Parsons, recently signed from Bromley, scored for Sutton Reserves on Saturday and is in the squad against Wycombe. Ray Sunnucks, the dashing winger who moved from Croydon to Gander Green Lane in the close season but has yet to kick a ball for his new club, awaits a medical report today.

Sunnucks injured his back during training a few weeks ago but hopes to be cleared to play by next week.

Barrie Williams, Sutton's manager, is quite pleased with his team's progress so far. "That heavy defeat against Staines was a blessing in disguise as it helped to jolt a few players out of their complacency. We played much better football in our following two matches," he said.

I READ recently a statement by the Chairman of Wycombe Wanderers FC at their annual meeting that the ambitious plans for a new club house have been shelved because of the economic situation.

I sincerely hope the good people who buy the lottery tickets will not be too disappointed. Having a great team again like we did during the period 1970-76 with the resulting fame it brought the town and Bucks (remember The Big Match televising our third round F.A. Cup game against Middlesbrough in 1975), is much more important.

The extra money now resulting must be utilised to obtain the best players possible, so in two or three years we can become one of the top clubs in non-league soccer.

Remember, exciting players and good results are a magnet for the crowds which we used to be proud of. I'm certain we now have, in Brian Lee and Mike Keen, a partnership which will, in time, equal the Brian Clough and Peter Taylor double at Notts Forest with the added

flavour Mr Lee and Mr Keen must between them know.

There must be many top league players who, now in the twilight of their career, would be only too willing to spend the last two years giving experience to local talented youngsters.

With the continued success of the lottery and the return of the supporters who left because we didn't encourage local talent, cash will become available and the roars which used to be the hallmark of success at Loakes Park will again resound around the town. —
J. Simmonds, 21 Chiltern Avenue, High Wycombe.